

THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER AMACHE PROJECT

Volume VI Spring 2014

Message From the Director

As the New Year begins, anticipation grows for upcoming next field season at Amache, which will take place this summer from mid-June to mid-July. There are many arrangements yet to be made, but we are pleased to have been welcomed back again by the wonderful people of Granada, especially John Hopper and his Amache Preservation Society students.

With grant funding from the University of Denver we will once again be able to bring on an APS student as a summer intern. Inside the newsletter you can read about Abby Hopper's experience as our APS intern in 2012. We also have an internship available for a high school or college student who had family at Amache. They will learn alongside the undergraduate and graduate students who contribute so much to the project through their hard work and research. Past and present student work is also highlighted in this issue.

This summer we will be hosting a special open house day for former Amache internees and their families on Friday, July 11. Coming at the end of the field season, it offers a wonderful



At the Amache Museum, Summer 2012

opportunity for visitors to see the results of our research and to meet other Amacheans. More details about that open house are also available in the newsletter. Of course we welcome visitors any time during our four weeks at Amache.

Thank you all for your interest in and support of the DU Amache project. It is an amazing journey we are on together.

Dr. Bonnie J. Clark
Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of Denver

Be a part of DU Amache!

This summer the University of Denver will be returning to Amache and the Amache museum in Granada, Colorado. We will be in Granada from June 17 through July 15. Our mornings will be spent doing archaeological research at the camp, while our afternoons will be in the Amache museum working on their wonderful collections.

So how can you be a part of this important work? If you or a family member were at Amache we invite you to our special open house day on Friday, July 11, 2014. There will be activities all day, including a chance to see the archaeologists at work, individualized tours of the camp, activities at the museum, socializing with other Amacheans, and a group dinner.

If you are a member of the public, please come see us the next day, Saturday, July 12, 2014. There will be site tours in the morning and activities in the museum in the afternoon.

We know it's not possible for all of you to come to Colorado, but your input is vital to this project. This year we will continue research on the gardens, but also will be investigating what we think was a furo, or traditional Japanese bath. If you or a family member remember a furo at Amache, we would love to hear from you!



Visitor helping to screen at Amache



Visitors and crew wash objects from Amache at the 2012 Open House

The DU Amache project is looking for a high school or college student intern from the Amache community for the 2014 Field season! For more information or to apply, go to:

<https://portfolio.du.edu/amache> or call 303-871-2875.

My Amache Experience

-By Abby Hopper

Editors note: Abby is a former Granada High School student and the daughter of Amache Preservation Society director, John Hopper

In the summer of 2012, I was offered an internship to work with Dr. Bonnie Clark and her three graduate and twelve undergraduate students for the summer field school, which was held at Amache. I didn't have that much experience with anthropology and archeology. I had watched Indiana Jones and The Mummy and a few National Geographic documentaries on King Tut. However, this was much different than what I watched on television. In fact, this was so much better.

In order to beat the heat, we had to report to the field pretty early. For me that meant waking up at five a.m. and I'm far from a morning person. The funny thing was that it didn't bother me as much as I thought it would. Mainly because I was so excited to go up to Amache and learn as much as I could. The students I met shared their knowledge with me and were glad to help me when I needed it. They were really passionate about learning and gaining as much experience as they could. They were excited to get out there and learn and it rubbed off.

I spent the first two weeks with Team Moon (lead by crew chief Jennifer Moon), surveying different blocks and analyzing different artifacts that we came across. The interesting thing about surveying was going back to each artifact that we had documented and entering it in a GPS system. The GPS was a little intimidating at first, especially, when Kevin Davis and I were the first two to use it. After entering the first few artifacts the GPS became easier to use. I am pretty sure everyone was more advanced using it by the end of the field school.

I thought afternoons were the best because we were able to spend time with Natalie Ruhe at the Amache museum. Together everyone pitched in and completed a project they thought would make the museum more amazing than it already was. Natalie taught us about what makes a great museum. The lesson that I loved the most was when she taught us to make boxes to store artifacts in. I was far from making a great box

like William Borkan's.

During the first two weeks, I really enjoyed working with the volunteers. Anita Miller and Carlene Tinker were once Amache internees. Duncan Kelly was a volunteer as well and I was able to work with him because we were both on the same team. One afternoon, Anita and Carlene brought their cooking utensils and let us help them make California rolls. It was awesome because they told me how they made it in camp with the ingredients that were available to them.

Going out to the field with them was a learning experience too. They would look around and point out where they went and what they remembered of what was there. It was always fascinating listening to some of their stories of what they remembered. It was sad seeing them leave after those two weeks because I became accustomed to seeing them every day and I enjoyed their company.

I was especially sad to see Dr. Clark's grad student, Captain Jennifer Moon, leave as well. She taught me a lot and overall was a great person to be around. Later, we were joined by William Sueoka and his son Michael Sueoka. As well as Kelli Tadamaru who was another summer intern like me. Kirsten Leong also joined us for the ride.

The second part of the field school was excavations. I cannot express how much excitement I had for the rest of those weeks. It was about this time that I was introduced to trowels. Most of the students were familiar



2012 High School Interns Abby Hopper and Kelli Tadamaru

with trowels and a few of them had their own. Christian Driver even had his own trowel sharpener. I had never held a trowel before and to me first impression was that it was like a pie server.

Dr. Clark, and each of her grad students, Peter Quantock and Christian Driver, all had different ways of excavating and I would learn from all three. Christian was my mentor for the last few weeks and our group was one of the first groups to dig in a barrack.

We were paired together in groups of two and were able to slowly excavate the ground beneath us. There is a lot that happens before, during and after excavation. It's a very slow process and calls for tons of patience. It is sort of an art to learn how to move a trowel. During excavation I liked asking Christian lots of questions about his trip to Egypt and anything else he knew. I learned a lot from him and what I learned, I still use today.

While excavating Dr. Clark would pop in and check up on us. She would give us different ways to excavate. Dr. Clark was interesting to talk to because she has been so many places and is very knowledgeable. I liked sitting down after a long day and talking to her about completely random things. Dr. Clark was super busy every day in the field, but she never failed to answer a question about Amache or anything else that crossed our mind.

In the last few weeks I was able to get close to Kelli. She was from a completely different part of the country than I was. For the three weeks that we got to spend together I was glad that we became good friends. It was awesome to hear about her life in California because Granada, Colorado, is nothing like that. One day, I don't remember how we got onto this topic but we constructed cardboard cars and decided we would egg them. Everyone came outside to watch Kelli egg her cardboard car. I loved that moment because I felt like everyone had really bonded together like a small family at that point.

Dr. Clark paired me up to finish up some artifact analysis with William Sueoka. We all called him Bill. William liked going out and looking at what we had to analyze and he always had something to contribute about it. He was



Abby and Kelli do lab work while Bill Sueoka reads

very knowledgeable and when we had the opportunity to visit with one another during a water break we talked about anything we could think of. Those few hours we had to ourselves I think I'll cherish forever because he taught me a lot not only about history but enjoying something that I'm passionate about.

By the time field school ended I met many, many new faces and bonded with a great group of people. I learned so much from the different experiences that I had and the different people that I had the great pleasure of working with. Before it was time to leave, we held an open house where anyone from and around the community could come and see what the field school was about. Jackie Berger designed awesome T-shirts that say "I Dig Amache" which everyone wore to represent. I still wear mine when I can, and people come up and ask "Hey what does the back of your shirt mean?" It's always a pleasure to share what it means.

Those four jam packed weeks were one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had. I cannot adequately express how honored I was to be offered the opportunity to join Dr. Clark that summer. My father has been involved with Amache since before I was born and Amache has always been a part of my life. I was given the opportunity to expand the knowledge that my father has passed onto me since childhood and it is definitely something I would do again if given the opportunity.

Reconstructing WWII Internment in Colorado through Gardens

~By Kevin Davis

Throughout my past three years attending the University of Denver, I've had the amazing opportunity to take part and contribute to two not only fascinating, but also very important archaeological projects. During the summer of 2012 I took part in Dr. Bonnie Clark's Amache Field School where I had my first real archaeological experience of any sort. I not only learned the basics of archaeology, but I learned a lot about a dark time in the United States. The following summer I had the opportunity to assist a DU graduate student, Chris Morine, on his thesis project, which focuses on the daily life of German prisoners of war at Camp Trinidad.

Chris suggested a comparison between Amache and Trinidad would be a good undergraduate thesis topic for me considering I had worked at both camps. I was really intrigued by this idea and decided to narrow it down to focusing specifically on gardens within the camps. Although both existed during WWII, one of the most basic differences between the two camps is that Amache contained American citizens of Japanese descent, while Trinidad housed over 3,000 German prisoners of war.

The Amache gardens are a testament to internee hard work, perseverance, and pride. Trees can be found at the camp that were planted to protect from the wind, as well as offer shade during the summer. The vegetable gardens offered fresh foods when the meals weren't always fresh. Other gardens were often found in open areas of the camps, and sometimes they would contain various flora not native to Granada, ponds, and even small wooden bridges. Entryway gardens could be found outside many barrack entrances. These gardens were well maintained by the internees as they all had a sense of pride in the gardens that they created. In looking at the archaeological evidence found during our field season, as well as historical pictures, we can see an amazing attention to detail in the construction and maintenance of the gardens.

While Trinidad contained gardens, they were not nearly as common as the ones found at Amache. Trinidad has a very similar environment as Amache as it is very arid and contains mostly windblown sediment, thus making it hard to make gardens of any sort.

According to an oral history with a former Camp Trinidad prisoner, some of the prisoners cared deeply about beautifying the camp, and would compete with other gardeners, while other prisoners simply did not care. Three types of gardens were found at Trinidad. We found officer gardens, common



Triangle Garden at Camp Trinidad, Summer 2013



Officers Garden at Camp Trinidad, Summer 2013

space gardens, and entranceway gardens. The officer gardens were the most intricate and extravagant gardens that we found. They formed a semicircular shape just outside of the officer's club entrances and contained iris and basalt stones. Sometimes they even contained trees. The common space gardens could be found in various places throughout the camp and varied in size and shape. One of the most prevalent ones that we found was along a walkway and was in a triangular shape. The last type of garden that we found was entryway gardens that could be found outside of various barracks. These gardens were rectangular in shape and contained non-local flora (such as iris). It is interesting to compare the similarities and differences between the gardens found at these two locations.

We can see that prisoners in both camps planted trees for protection from the elements and the gardens as a form of beautification. Some of the main differences are the various types of gardens (victory gardens vs. officer gardens for example). The vegetable gardens at Amache actually produced food for the internees, while the gardens at Trinidad did not. Another difference between the gardens was the materials out of which they were constructed. The gardens at Amache often employ river cobbles, limestone, or concrete, while the gardens at Trinidad used rocks and basalt stones. The last difference between the gardens is the purpose for which the gardens were built. The gardens at Amache were constructed with the purpose of beautifying the camp as well as leaving a legacy for generations to come, as we can see from archaeological evidence such as soil samples. Prisoners at Trinidad made the gardens out of competition and for beautification, not necessarily to leave a legacy of their time at camp.

Why is this important though? What can gardens tell us about the past? To gain a better understanding of the past we have to delve into various lines of evidence, not just archaeological, to gain a better understanding of their lives of the internees and prisoners and their outlook on the war and their circumstances of the time.



Victory Gardens in Block 12K at Amache



Trees still growing in an Amache barracks block



*Garden at Amache (Block 6H) with river cobble landscaping
Photo courtesy of Jack Muro*

Recent News

Amache Towers Completed

Visitors to Amache will have more to see on their next visit. A reconstructed guard tower and the refurbished original water tank with new tower have been returned to Amache. Funded by both the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program and the Colorado State Historical Fund, the new towers serve as a visible reminder of Amache. The original tank of the Amache water tower was donated by a local family who purchased it when the camp was closed. All of the guard towers were demolished at that time, and no architectural drawings have been found. The new guard tower was designed based on research with historic photos, oral history, and archaeology done by the DU Amache project.

DU Student Research Published

The research of former DU students Dana Ogo Shew and April Kamp-Whittaker was recently published in a new edited book, *Prisoners of War: Archaeology, Memory, and Heritage of 19th- and 20th-Century Mass Internment*. Their co-written chapter, "Perseverance and Prejudice: Maintaining Community in Amache, Colorado's World War II Japanese Internment Camp" is based on their thesis research on the women and children of the camp. Also featured in the book is a chapter about saké at Amache, written by Michelle Slaughter, part of the team from the original 2003 archaeology survey of the camp.



Reconstructed Guard Tower at Amache

New Documentary about Amache

Rocky Mountain PBS recently completed a documentary about Amache. It includes interviews with several former internees, as well as Dr. Bonnie Clark, the director of the DU Amache project. The documentary can be accessed online at:

<http://video.rmpbs.org/video/2363832613/>

A Hawai'i Connection?

Although only a few families from Hawai'i are listed on the Amache camp directory, many others had family ties to the islands. Excavations of one camp garden recovered pollen from *Canna*, a tropical plant common in Hawai'i. On a recent trip to the islands, Dr. Clark was able to collect samples of *Canna* and visit historic Japanese Hawai'ian sites. The data gathered will contribute to our ongoing research, especially on Amache's gardens.


Contact us:

The DU Amache project needs you!! As we continue to move forward, we want you to be a part of our work, whether through sharing your memories or opinions, through planning future research, or through public events. If you are interested in joining us as a High School intern or volunteer for the 2014 field season, we would love to hear from you. Correspondence can be sent to Dr. Bonnie Clark via email at bclark@du.edu or at the mailing address below.

For more about the Amache Project please visit the project website at <https://portfolio.du.edu/amache>

The DU Amache project will continue to update the community through newsletters and other correspondence. For additional copies of the newsletter or to join our mailing list please contact us at bclark@du.edu or the address below with your mailing address and /or e-mail address.

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